



# The NBII Digital Image Library

Bringing your  
images to a worldwide  
audience...

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) Digital Image Library <<http://images.nbii.gov>> makes available online images related to nature and the environment from the "NBII's" own collections and from contributing partners. The library contains well-documented images associated with organisms, habitats, environment issues, wildlife management, and biological research. As new images are added, the library continues to increase the depth and diversity of available subjects. We invite you to use and participate in this expanding online resource.

## The Value of the Image Library

The mission of the NBII Digital Image Library is to provide a wide range of biological images – offering a rich, Web-based resource of high-quality images to scientists, conservationists, decision-makers, educators, students, and the general public worldwide. As such, images are either public domain or available for most nonprofit purposes.

Most images can be downloaded in multiple sizes. The NBII also requires that each image be dynamically linked to *metadata* – specific information about the image – thus increasing its usefulness to a broader audience. Well-documented images are key to recording and understanding the natural environment. Each image's metadata record contains validated information, such as scientific and common names, descriptions, and geographic location as well as photographer and contributing partner names.



Photo Credit: José Luis Cartes/Guyra Paraguay/NBII

*Toco Toucan (Ramphastos toco)*  
Paraguay



Photo Credit: John J. Mosesso /NBII

*Coppery Mesemb (Malephora crocea)*  
Hawaii, United States

With this information, images can be used to:

- Aid identification,
- Complement museum specimens by showing colors of parts that fade in collections,
- Illustrate lessons, scientific papers, news articles, Web sites, presentations, proposals, brochures, reports, and posters,
- Provide a baseline for changing conditions when georeferenced, and
- Facilitate decisions about the environment and its resources.

## Benefits to Contributing Partners

The library's holdings encompass a broad range of wildlife and ecological issues. Because of the information attached to an image, other potential users conducting an image search can



Photo Credit: John J. Mosesso /NBII

*Bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana)*  
Virginia, United States



Photo Credit: Fernando González Parini/Guyra Paraguay/NBII

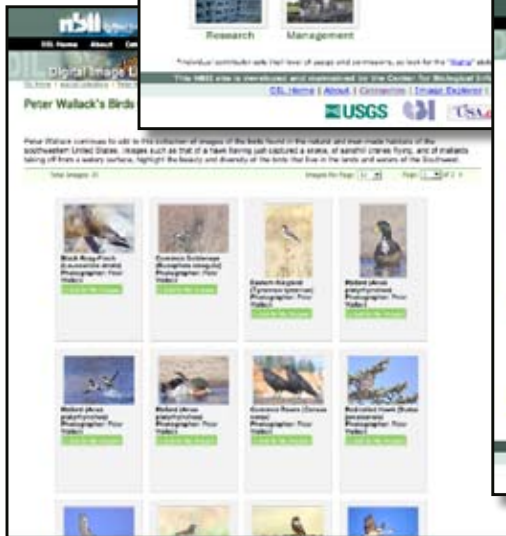
*Giant Anteater (Myrmecophaga tridactyla)*  
Camino a Bahía Negra, Paraguay

locate images you have contributed. Your organization's name, and the photographer, are linked to the image, thus providing exposure to a wider audience. Some other benefits to contributors include:

- A repository for contributors to transfer and organize their images, which can then be accessed online,
- Ease in locating and sharing of images with others,
- Secure, long-term storage,
- Long-term image preservation,
- Reliable Internet service,
- A robust search tool,
- Strict quality control,
- Maintenance of image rights,
- Capacity building for your organization,
- Training in cataloging concepts and tools,



- 1 **Home Page:** browse the library by broad biological categories, by special collections, or by going straight to a featured image. Other tools, such as the search box, the Image Explorer browser, and a cart to hold your images are also available from the home page.



- 2 **Thumbnails Page:** browse all the thumbnails within a category.



- 3 **Metadata Record:** view an image's metadata record and links to other resolutions.



- 4 **Special Collections:** can be used by groups or organizations to highlight special projects that they're working on or specific themes.

- The application of global image standards, and
- Technical support to help transfer images and metadata.

## How the Image Library Works

Image seekers may browse through our broad categories or search for specific images contained in the library (see graphics above). By clicking on an image category you gain access to all the thumbnails within that category. Then by clicking on an individual thumbnail image, its metadata record and links to other resolutions appear on a new page.

## Image and Metadata Standards

As a general rule, images are digitized at the highest resolution appropriate to achieve the level of quality and the long-term preservation of the library collection. The NBII has developed guidelines that are based on current global standards and technologies. The quality of image resolution and file compression of un-retouched photographs are important for system compatibility, interoperability, and demonstrating ownership of the digital asset.

Image metadata follow established guidelines based on the Dublin Core metadata standard. Contributors are responsible for providing images with the appropriate validated metadata in the NBII schema.

Image and metadata standards for the Image Library are outlined in detail in *The NBII Digital Image Library Guidelines*. The NBII has also developed an electronic tool for cataloging information for images and can provide nodes and partners the necessary training. We also provide tools and resources to upload, host, and search images. We are working to add multilingual functionality to our tools as well.

## About the NBII

The NBII <[www.nbii.gov](http://www.nbii.gov)> is an electronic information network that provides access to biological data and information on our nation's plants, animals, and ecosystems. Data and information maintained by federal, state, and local government agencies; non-government organizations; and private-sector organizations are linked through the NBII gateway and made

accessible to a variety of audiences including researchers, natural resource managers, decision-makers, educators, students, and other private citizens.

## For More Information

For more information about the NBII Digital Image Library or to explore image project opportunities, contact the Digital Image Library coordinators:

Annette Olson, Ph.D.  
E-mail: [alolson@usgs.gov](mailto:alolson@usgs.gov) or [images@nbii.gov](mailto:images@nbii.gov)  
Phone: 1-703-648-4080

Bruce Hunter  
E-mail: [bhunter@usgs.gov](mailto:bhunter@usgs.gov)  
Phone: 1-703-648-4313

NBII National Program Office  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 20192 U.S.A.

Find us on the Web at:  
<<http://images.nbii.gov>>.